



# NEWS RELEASE

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## STATEMENT ON THE SIGNING OF THE AGREEMENT ON THE LAW OF THE SEA TO THE U.N. CONVENTION ON THE LAW OF THE SEA

Secretary of Defense William Perry released the following statement on the July 29, 1994 signing of the Implementing Agreement reaffirming the sea-mining provisions of the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.

"The Department of Defense has long supported the United States becoming a party to the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea provided U.S. concerns with Part XI could be adequately addressed. Removal of those objections now opens the way for U.S. acceptance of the entire Convention, whose provisions are of major strategic, economic and environmental importance to the United States.

"The nation's security has depended upon our ability to conduct military operations over, under, and on the oceans. We support the Convention because it confirms traditional high seas freedoms of navigation and overflight; it details passage rights through international straits; and it reduces prospects for disagreements with coastal nations during operations.

"This Convention gives DoD an important safeguard as we protect U.S. security and economic interests, as well as to defuse those situations in which competing uses of the oceans are likely to result in conflict.

"In addition to strongly supporting our interests in freedom of navigation, the Convention provides an effective framework for serious efforts to address land and sea-based sources of pollution and overfishing. Moreover, the Agreement provides us with an opportunity to participate with other industrialized nations in a widely accepted international order to regulate and safeguard the many diverse activities, interests, and resources in the world's oceans."

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